

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-6 and 10-12 are currently pending in the application; Claims 7-9 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer; and independent Claims 1, 4, 7 and 10 having been amended by the present amendment. Support for the amendments to Claims 1, 4, 7 and 10 can be found in the original specification, claims and drawings.¹ Thus, no new matter is presented.

In summary, the Official Action presents the following issues: Claims 7-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter; Claims 1, 4, 7 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite; and Claims 1-6 and 10-12 were indicated as being allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, mentioned above.

In response to the rejection of Claims 7-9 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter, Claims 7-9 have been canceled. Therefore, the rejection of Claims 7-9 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 has been rendered moot.

Claims 1, 4, 7 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. The Official Action states that the statement “when the error main scan lines on which the predetermined edge pattern does not occur” is indefinite. The Official Action also recommends that Claims 1, 4 and 10 be amended to recite that “each main scan line not satisfying the range according to the dictionary is counted as an error, determining a detection of the semicircle when the number of error is less than a

¹ Specification at page 4, lines 8-20.

predetermined threshold.” In response, Claims 1, 4 and 10 have been amended to incorporate the recommendation cited in the Official Action.

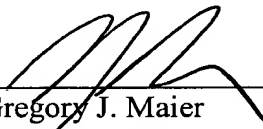
Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 1, 4 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

With the cancellation of Claims 7-9, and the incorporation of the language recommended by the Official Action into Claims 1, 4 and 10, the outstanding rejections are believed to have been overcome and the present application is in condition for formal allowance.

If the Examiner believes any additional formal matter needs to be addressed in order to place this application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone at the Examiner's convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

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